



# UPDATE

OF THE TENNESSEE DEPARTMENT OF MENTAL HEALTH AND DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES

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## Back to the Family, Strengthening Community Partnerships Topics of Nashville Event

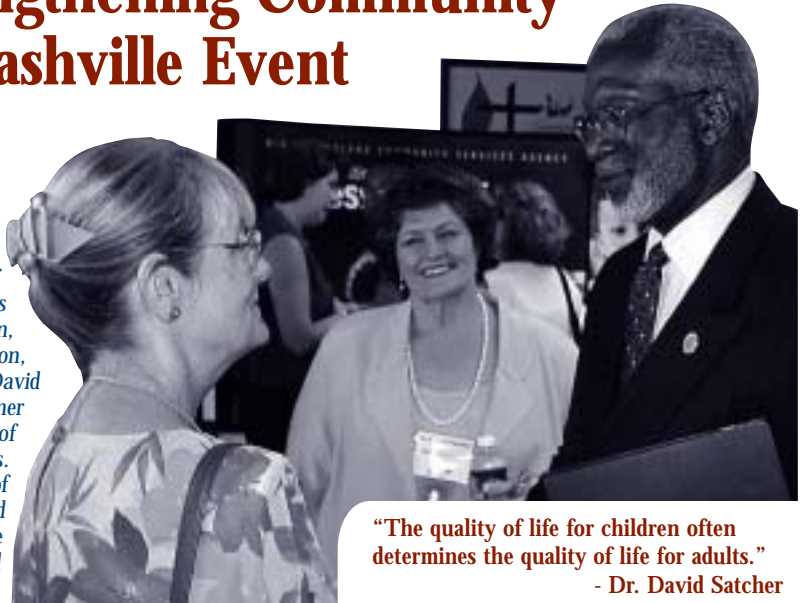
Tennessee Voices for Children's "State of the Child Conference," held September 8-10, echoed stability and structure as concerned parents, mental health professionals, children's services advocates, policy makers, educators and others gathered to understand and plan what must be done to address today's childhood problems.

Stressed were effective, multiple systems that must work together to help a child develop his or her self, sense of belonging, heritage and security.

And, at the heart of all this was the concept that the family must always be at the epicenter of any system of care. Family strengths, oftentimes, provide solutions to the many emotional and behavioral needs of children. And, as families learn to instill positive traits in their children so must communities join together in helping to resolve issues that affect not only the physical health of youth, but also their mental health.

Addressing these issues were several featured speakers. Among them: Elisabeth Rukeyser,

*DMHDD  
Commissioner  
Elisabeth  
Rukeyser (left)  
and Executive  
Director of  
Tennessee Voices  
for Children,  
Charlotte Bryson,  
greet Dr. David  
Satcher, former  
surgeon general of  
the United States.  
Satcher was one of  
the featured  
speakers at the  
State of the Child  
Conference.*



**"The quality of life for children often determines the quality of life for adults."  
- Dr. David Satcher**

commissioner of the Department of Mental Health and Developmental Disabilities (DMHDD); former Surgeon General of the United States, Dr. David Satcher; and Dr. Kyle Pruett, an international authority on many aspects of child and parent development.

The three-day conference, held in Nashville, was the scene for numerous workshops. Some of which were: advocacy training, bipolar disorder, respite awareness, suicide prevention and school-based mental health services and issues.

## Pursley Named CO at Western MHI



Roger Pursley became chief officer at Western Mental Health Institute (WMHI), effective September 1, 2002, following a national search to fill the position.

In announcing his appointment, DMHDD Commissioner Elisabeth Rukeyser said, "I feel Mr. Pursley's vast experience in the mental health field makes him very valuable to this department. He has performed his past duties as assistant superintendent and acting chief officer of Western MHI quite admirably."

Prior to his appointment, Pursley was acting chief office at WMHI since July 2002, while concurrently performing his duties as assistant superintendent for administrative services—a position he held since July 2000.

In 1976, Pursley earned his bachelor's degree from the University of Memphis and has over 25 years experience in overall management and administration of mental health operations and program development.

Prior to his work at Western, Pursley served six years as chief executive officer/president of Genesis of Jackson and New Era Geriatric Services. In this capacity, he was responsible for the overall administration, management and development of these corporations. He was also responsible for supervision of middle management and direct professional providers to over 50 long-term care nursing facilities across Tennessee.

Pursley also served as a Petty Officer 3rd Class during the Vietnam War.

## Update

of the Tennessee Department of Mental  
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**State of Tennessee**  
**Don Sundquist, Governor**



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## Around the State

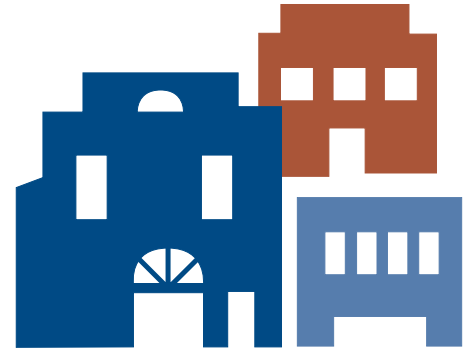
### AAMR Publishes New Definition of Mental Retardation

The new 10th edition of *Mental Retardation: Definition, Classification and Systems of Support*, published by the American Association of Mental Retardation (AAMR), contains the latest version of the most widely used definition of mental retardation in the United States.

The 10th edition brings the concept of mental retardation into the 21st century, according to Ruth Luckasson, president of AAMR and chair of the panel of 11 international experts who wrote the book. States and the U. S. courts will find it particularly helpful in understanding mental retardation, given the recent Supreme Court decision banning the execution of persons with mental retardation.

Supports are the cornerstone of the AAMR approach to mental retardation. This approach considers the specific need of each person with mental retardation rather than force individuals into judgmental diagnostic categories and limited models of service.

For more information: Anna Prabhala at  
(202) 387-1968, ext 212 or e-mail  
[annap@aamr.org](mailto:annap@aamr.org).



### Drop-in Centers Listing Now on DMHDD Site

You can now find a statewide drop-in center listing on the DMHDD web site at [www.state.tn.us/mental](http://www.state.tn.us/mental).

The 50 centers are separated by east, west and middle Tennessee and include the counties covered by each.

A drop-in center is a central place for consumer self-help, advocacy, education and socialization. No admission fee or membership fee is charged. And, consumers can come together at a drop-in center to make friends and socialize.

For additions or corrections to this list, contact [Lea.Haynie@state.tn.us](mailto:Lea.Haynie@state.tn.us)

## Charlie's Dream:

### Looking Forward to Living Independently.



"Charlie" dreams of the day when he can leave home and venture out into the world. At 19, he is eager to see what the future holds. And for the first time in a long time, he feels his life is full of promise.

This is a change for Charlie. You see, he's had a long history of mental illness. Currently, he is diagnosed with chronic paranoid schizophrenia, mood disorder, not otherwise specified and attention-deficit/hyperactivity disorder (ADHD).

He's had multiple inpatient admissions and placement in residential treatment facilities. His last admission lasted one year in a residential treatment setting with his adoptive parents. While he lacks the skills required to live independently at this time, he yearns to acquire those skills.

For the past three years he has been successful in remaining in the community and out of an inpatient setting. With the aid of his continuous treatment team, funded by TennCare, he has made the best of his condition. Recently, he was approved to live in a Southeast Mental Health Center's supportive living facility with 24-hour supervision. The DMHDD has funded this housing through its Creating Homes Initiative (CHI).

Charlie is looking forward to his change of scenery. He believes this is another step closer to living independently. So, for the time being, he will work with housing staff to acquire the needed skills to help put his dreams in motion.

# Around the State

## Who Treats Your Health Care Professional?

Health care practitioners are susceptible to chemical dependencies or mental and physical illnesses the same as you and I. So, who do our health care practitioners turn to in times of need?

The Tennessee Professional Assistance Program (TNPAP) is designed to provide a voluntary, confidential alternative to disciplinary action for certain practitioners who are in violation of the Practice Act. The reason for the violations could be addictions, the abuse of alcohol and or drugs or other psychological, physiological or psychosocial impairment.

The program provides compassionate, but structured support to practitioners who seek recovery and normality in their lives and careers. This project is funded under an agreement with the Tennessee Department of Health.

Currently, the program serves the licensees of the Board of Nursing, Medical Laboratory Board, Board of Respiratory Care, Committee for Physician Assistants, Board of Occupational and Physical Therapy, Board of Alcohol and Drug Counselors and Massage Licensure Board.

For more information, visit [www.tnpap.com](http://www.tnpap.com) or call (615) 726-4001 or (888) 776-0786.



The DMHDD's Title VI Coordinator Bob VanderSpek (left) talks with visitors to the department's booth at the 2002 Marketplace of Opportunities, sponsored by the Tennessee Minority Supplier Development Council, held at the Nashville Convention Center.

## Arc Elects 2002-2003 Officers

The Arc of Tennessee held its annual meeting on Saturday, June 22 in Clarksville. Officers elected for 2002-03 include:

President: Donald Redden  
Vice president: Ron Butler  
Secretary: Carol Greenwald  
Treasurer: Del Ray Nichols  
Reg. 1 VP: John Umberger  
Reg. 2 VP: Glenda Bond  
Reg. 3 VP: Bev Hart



Redden

The Arc of Tennessee is a family-based organization committed to securing for all people with mental retardation or other disabilities the opportunity to choose and realize their goals of how they live, learn, work and play. For more information about The Arc, contact [pcooper@thearcctn.org](mailto:pcooper@thearcctn.org).

## Happenings

- Randall Jessee, Ph.D., senior vice president of Alcohol and Drug and Specialty Services for Frontier Health, was recently named Treatment Professional of the Year for East Tennessee at the annual Alcohol and Drug School.



- Harold Naramore, M.D., medical director at Woodridge Hospital recently earned the Outstanding Clinical Faculty Teaching Award in the James H. Quillen College of Medicine at East Tennessee State University. Residents in the college's Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences chose him for this award.



- Evelyn Robertson Jr. of Whiteville received the inaugural Jimmy Daniel Make-A-Difference WestStar Alumni Award at the recent WestStar Leadership Graduation Banquet in Jackson. A former DMHDD commissioner, Robertson was nominated for the award by current WestStar class members and selected by a committee of the WestStar Board of Trustees.
- Orange Grove Center, a Chattanooga facility that contracts with the Division of Mental Retardation Services, was recently featured in Inside UPS—News and views from United Parcel Service. Orange Grove's contract covers supported employment, supported living, residential, respite care, personal assistance, adult day habilitation services/community participation services. The article "Lessons



in Caring" centered on a program for UPS managers. Called Community Internship Program, it is an intensive leadership training program that renews the sense of awareness, understanding, sensitivity and involvement. The program gives participants the change to help build solutions to problems faced by diverse populations.

- Chosen as this year's Health Care Heroes for their dedication and leadership in the mental health field in Northeast Tennessee and Southwest Virginia are Kim Cudebec, Dr. Lee Ellen Naramore, Joe Page, Regina Lawson and Dr. Rodney Houghton. They were chosen by *The Business Journal*, Monarch Pharmaceuticals and King Pharmaceuticals for their "extraordinary service to health care for conveying such noteworthy qualities as selflessness, compassion and loyalty."



## Study Looks at Suicide Rates by Gun Among Young Men

(Excerpts from Associated Press article)

The rate of suicide by gun among black male teen-agers nearly quadrupled between 1979 and 1994 before falling off somewhat in the late 1990s.

This is according to a study which uses data collected by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. The study found that suicide by gun among 15-to 19-year-old black males rose

from 3.6 per 100,000 in 1979 to a peak of 13.9 per 100,000 in 1994. The rate for 1997—the most recent year studied—was down to 8.4 per 100,000.

Guns were used in 54 percent of all black suicides in that age group in 1979 and in 74 percent by 1997.

For whites in the same age group, the gun-related suicide rate was 9.7 per 100,000 in 1979. It peaked at 13.6 per 100,000 in 1991 and dropped to 10.4 per 100,000 in 1997. Guns were used in 68 percent of all 1979 suicides in the age group and in 65 percent in 1997.

Traditionally, blacks have had much lower suicide rates than whites, but the availability of guns may help account for the narrowing of the gap among young men, according to researchers.

***"Males are at least four times more likely than females to die from suicide."***

***-Centers for Disease Control***



2002-03 Officers of the Mental Health Policy and Planning Council are (seated—from left) Judy Reeves, co-secretary and Sita Diehl, vice-president. Standing are Bob Benning, past president; Bonnie Currey, president; and Carol Cox, co-secretary.



New members of the 2002-03 Mental Health Policy and Planning Council attended an orientation session prior to their first meeting—held in August in Nashville.

**Mark  
Your  
Calendar**

### Arts and Disabilities Exhibit

Creative Expressions VIII Exhibit  
October-December  
Kennedy Center/MRL Building  
Nashville  
Co-sponsor Nashville Mayor's Advisory  
Committee for People with Disabilities

### Statewide Suicide Prevention Conference

May 5-6, 2003, Woodmont Hills Church of Christ  
3710 Franklin Pike, Nashville, 37204

Sponsored by the Suicide Prevention Network  
For information: [sridgetn@aol.com](mailto:sridgetn@aol.com)



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